

TRIBUTE TO THE NATIONAL
PUERTO RICAN DAY PARADE

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to the 48th Annual National Puerto Rican Day Parade, which will be held on June 11, 2006 in New York City. This parade, which celebrates the heritage of the Puerto Rican people, is one of the largest outdoor events in the United States.

The first New York Puerto Rican Day parade, held on Sunday, April 12, 1958 in "El Barrio" in Manhattan, was a wonderful event in the heart of the city's Puerto Rican community.

In 1995, the overwhelming success of the parade prompted organizers to increase its size, and transform it into a national affair now known as the National Puerto Rican Day Parade. This magnificent New York institution now includes participation from delegates representing over 30 states, including Alaska and Hawaii and attracts over 3 million parade goers every year.

The great success that this parade has enjoyed over the years is a result of the tireless efforts of many individuals from all walks of life who are dedicated to preserving and celebrating Puerto Rican heritage and culture. Leading this effort is the National Puerto Rican Day Parade, Inc. a non-profit organization founded in 1995 with the mission of increasing the self-awareness and pride of the Puerto Rican people as a way of addressing issues of economic development, education, cultural recognition, and social advancement.

The parade up New York's Fifth Avenue, while certainly the most visible aspect of the celebration of the Puerto Rican people, is not the only event associated with the National Puerto Rican Day Parade, Inc.'s activities. Each year more than 10,000 people attend a variety of award ceremonies, banquets and cultural events which not only help to highlight, but also strengthen the special relationship shared by Puerto Ricans and the City of New York. Over the years, the two have developed a symbiotic relationship—Puerto Ricans sharing a vibrant and beautiful culture that has helped turn New York into a bilingual city and the City of New York helping Puerto Ricans to flourish economically, politically and culturally. The annual parade captures the spirit of this special relationship and celebrates its success.

Mr. Speaker, as a Puerto Rican, a New Yorker, and a Member of Congress, it is an honor to participate in this national event in which thousands of individuals march along Fifth Avenue in celebration. The National Puerto Rican Day Parade is a communal cultural treasure, national in scope and impact, which unites all New Yorkers. I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the Puerto Rican people and to all who have worked to ensure that the upcoming parade is a success.

HONORING HIS MAJESTY KING
BHUMIBOL ADULYADEJ OF THAILAND

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 409, commemorating the 60th anniversary of the ascension to the throne of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand. His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej ascended the throne on June 9, 1946 and is the longest-serving monarch in the world.

His Majesty King Bhumibol will receive a special Human Development Lifetime Achievement Award from the United Nations Development Agency for his dedication to social justice, growth with equity, human security, democratic governance, and sustainability.

During his reign, Thailand has become a constitutional democracy in which Thai citizens enjoy the right to change their government through periodic free and fair elections held on the basis of universal suffrage.

His Majesty King Bhumibol has always enjoyed a special relationship with the United States, having been born in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where his father, Prince Mahidol of Songkla was studying medicine.

The United States and Thailand have enjoyed over 170 years of friendship since the signing of the Treaty of Amity and Commerce in 1833, the first such treaty signed between the United States and any Asian country, and on December 30, 2003, President George W. Bush designated the Kingdom of Thailand as a major non-NATO ally.

Mr. Speaker, His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej has proudly led the people of Thailand for 60 years. I rise today to offer congratulations to His Majesty King Bhumibol and best wishes for continued health and prosperity to his Majesty and the Kingdom of Thailand as we continue the historic friendship between the Thai and American people.

RECOGNIZING DR. SAMUEL L.
SELINGER

HON. CATHY McMORRIS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Miss McMORRIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Samuel L. Selinger for his unwavering dedication to provide access to affordable health care in the Inland Northwest. After a long and prestigious career as a heart surgeon, Dr. Selinger retired and began to volunteer his time and services at a free health clinic. There he experienced first hand the frustrations associated with caring for disadvantaged citizens and took it upon himself to find a better way to provide them with access to health care.

The effort led by Dr. Selinger contributed to the development of a program in Spokane that caters to the health care needs of the low-income population. As a result of his diligent work, in the fall of 2003, Dr. Selinger witnessed the creation of Spokane's own Project Access. Project Access is a national move-

ment of volunteer physicians that organizes free medical care to individuals that have a low income. After starting more than 10 years ago in Buncombe County, North Carolina there are now over 50 Project Access programs across the country that serve the health care needs of people who would normally be unable to obtain such care.

In addition, Dr. Selinger has made it his responsibility to educate the community's medical professionals on the struggles that low income people face in accessing quality health care. Dr. Selinger has made it a priority to help numerous physicians understand how they can be part of the solution by organizing and contributing their services to charitable medical programs for disadvantaged people.

Project Access continues to grow in the Spokane area. Because of its success, largely due to Dr. Selinger's commitment, the Spokane County Medical Society has agreed to sponsor Project Access and help expand the network of physicians in the Inland Northwest. Not only has Dr. Selinger and his tireless work been recognized by Spokane County, but it has also been recognized by distinguished community members, physicians, and private businesses. The impact of Project Access on our community would not be at the level it is today if it were not for the leadership of Dr. Samuel L. Selinger.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Dr. Samuel L. Selinger for his exceptional service to the city of Spokane, and to thank him for the role he has played in providing free or low cost health care to the disadvantaged citizens of Spokane.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK R. KENNEDY

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, had I been in Washington yesterday, June 6, 2006, my votes on the following Rollcalls would have been as follows:

Roll No. 223, King/Campbell—"yes."
Roll No. 224, Kingston—"yes."
Roll No. 225, Table the Appeal of the Ruling of the Chair—"yes."
Roll No. 226, On Passage—"yes."

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF LIGHTHOUSE POINT

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the wonderful City of Lighthouse Point, Florida. I am proud to have represented the residents of this city for the 26 years I have served in Congress.

Incorporated on June 13, 1956, Lighthouse Point derived its name from its location under the beam of the famed Hillsboro Lighthouse. Armed with a petition signed by over 100 residents favoring incorporation, community leaders traveled to Tallahassee to seek approval. Story has it that 77 names on the petition